

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 10070 151323Z

ACTION PA-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PRS-01 SS-15 SSO-00 /029 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4742

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 10070

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (CHRISTOPHER, WARREN)

SUBJECT: VISIT BY DEPUTY SECRETARY

REF: STATE 164515

1. WE BELIEVE THE DEPUTY SECRETARY SHOULD MEET INDIAN AND AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS ON REPEAT ON THE RECORD. IT SEEMS IMPORTANT THAT THE MOST SENIOR OFFICIAL OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION TO VISIT INDIA TAKE THIS POSTURE. THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH THE OPEN APPROACH OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT HERE. WE WILL TRANSMIT IN ANOTHER MESSAGE SUGGESTED RESPONSES TO POSSIBLE PRESS QUESTIONS.

2. SINCE THE DEPUTY SECRETARY WILL VISIT DELHI FOR ONLY ONE DAY, AND SINCE THERE ARE NO EVENING PAPERS OF CONSEQUENCE IN INDIA, WE BELIEVE HIS MAJOR MEDIA IMPACT WILL COME FROM HIS PRESS CONFERENCE AND POSSIBLE TOAST. ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE STATEMENTS WOULD BE OVERSHADOWED BY HIS PRESS CONFERENCE. CONSEQUENTLY, WE PROPOSE AN ARRIVAL STATEMENT BE USED ONLY IF CORRESPONDENTS ARE PRESENT WHEN THE DEPUTY SECRETARY REACHES NEW DELHI; ALSO SUCH A STATEMENT SHOULD BE SIMPLE AND BRIEF. WE WILL TRANSMIT A SUGGESTED TEXT IN A SEPARATE TELEGRAM. SINCE THE DEPUTY SECRETARY WILL BE MEETING THE PRESS FOLLOWING HIS LUNCH WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND HIS OFFICIAL DISCUSSIONS WITH MEMBERS OF THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT, WE DO NOT

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BELIEVE A DEPARTURE STATEMENT NECESSARY.

3. THE APPROPRIATE OCCASION FOR A TOAST WOULD BE THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S LUNCH. SINCE THE FOREIGN MINISTER WILL NOT ATTEND THE AMBASSADOR'S DINNER WE BELIEVE IT BEST TO AVOID TOASTS ON THAT OCCASION. WE HAVE SUGGESTED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT TOASTS MIGHT BE EXCHANGED AT LUNCH AND IT WILL PROPOSE THIS

TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER. WE WILL PREPARE A DRAFT AND TRANS-
MIT IT IN A SEPARATE TELEGRAM.

4. WE BELIEVE A PRE-TRIP BACKGROUNDER FOR INDIAN JOURNALISTS
WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT IDEA. SUCH A BACKGROUNDER COULD BE USED
TO ADD TO THE THEME OF US RESPECT FOR INDIAN DEMOCRACY BY
SETTING FORTH THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE USG ATTACHES TO SOUTH
ASIA AND THE IMPORTANT ROLE WHICH THE US RECOGNIZES INDIA
PLAYS IN SOUTH ASIA. FOR THIS PURPOSE WE RECOMMEND THE THEMES
IN THE DUBS AND ATHERTON STATEMENTS (NEW DELHI 9941). SUCH
A BACKGROUNDER WOULD HELP OFFSET THE IMPRESSION IN SOME
QUARTERS HERE THAT THE OMISSION OF MENTION OF SOUTH ASIA IN
THE SECRETARY'S ASIA SPEECH WAS AN INDICATION OF LACK OF US
INTEREST IN THIS REGION. SIMILARLY A FOLLOW-UP MEETING WITH
THE INDIAN CORRESPONDENTS AFTER THE TRIP COULD BE MOST USE-
FUL. IF A PRE-VISIT BACKGROUNDER IS GIVEN, WE WOULD APPRE-
Ciate BEING INFORMED OF ITS CONTENTS BEFORE THE ARRIVAL OF
THE DEPUTY SECRETARY.

GOHEEN

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